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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,226	12/19/2000	Shepherd Shi	AUS9-2000-0761-US1	4532

7590 10/20/2003
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EXAMINER

GODDARD, BRIAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

9

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/740,226

PR4
Applicant(s)

SHI ET AL.

Examiner

Brian Goddard

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 08 August 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment B, filed 08 August 2003.
2. Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 19 are independent claims. This action is non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, claims 1-9 are directed to "a search method" which is nothing more than an algorithm or abstract idea, has no tangible or concrete embodiment, and produces no useful, tangible or concrete results. Claims 10-18 are directed to "a computer program product...comprising a program of instructions for performing the method steps" which, although embodied in a tangible and concrete "computer program product", is still nothing more than an algorithm that produces no useful, tangible or concrete results.

To expedite a complete examination of the instant application, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 (nonstatutory) above are further rejected as set forth below in anticipation of applicant amending these claims to place them within the four statutory categories of invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-10, 13, 15, 17-19, 22, 24 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Traversat (U.S. 6,366,954).

Referring to claim 1, Traversat discloses a search method as claimed. See Figures 3-7 and the corresponding portions of Traversat's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Traversat teaches "a search method [See Figure 7] comprising the steps of:

determining [Step 706] if a first parameter [configuration request data (e.g. machine identifier, user name, user identifier)] has a first predetermined value [e.g. MAC Address – 511 or User Name – 601, 603, 605]; and

if said first parameter has said first predetermined value ['YES' branch from step 706 (706 → 710)], returning [Step 710] a value of each of one or more selected members [application specific configuration data 509 and/or 519] of a first node [501-507 and/or 515-517], said first node being referenced [See column 8, lines 43-64] by a value of a first member [513] of a second node [511] in response to said first member of said second node having a predetermined type [See column 8, lines 43-64]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 4, Traversat discloses the search method as claimed. See Figures 3-7 and the corresponding portions of the specification for this disclosure. Traversat teaches the method of claim 1, as above, "further comprising the step of returning [Step 710] values of a selected set of members [513] of said second node [511]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 6, Traversat discloses the search method as claimed. See Figures 3-7 and the corresponding portions of the specification for this disclosure. Traversat teaches the method of claim 1, as above, "further comprising the step of...returning [Step 710] a value of each of one or more selected members [509 or 519] of a third node [501-507 or 515-517]...[See column 8, lines 43-64]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 8, Traversat discloses the search method as claimed. See Figure 7 and the corresponding portion of the specification for this disclosure. Traversat teaches the method of claim 1, as above, "wherein said first parameter [See above] comprises a parameter [e.g. machine identifier, user name, user identifier] of a set of parameters in a search request [704]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 9, Traversat discloses the search method as claimed. See Figure 7 and the corresponding portion of the specification for this disclosure. Traversat teaches the method of claim 8, as above, "wherein said search request [704] comprises a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) search request" as claimed.

Claims 10, 13, 15 and 17-18 are rejected on the same basis as claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-9 respectively. See the discussions regarding claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-9 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claims 19, 22, 24 and 26-27 are rejected on the same basis as claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-9 respectively. See the discussions regarding claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-9 above for the details of this disclosure.

5. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,587,874 to Golla et al.

Referring to claim 1, Golla teaches a search method as claimed. See Figures 1-4 and the corresponding portions of Golla's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Golla teaches "a search method [401] comprising the steps of:

determining [Step 403] if a first parameter [a parameter of an LDAP request principal (See column 3, lines 44-53; column 4, lines 35-60; and column 9, lines 36-46)] has a first predetermined value [particular DN attribute value (e.g. 'c=US')]; and

if said first parameter has a first predetermined value [if leaf node is identified], returning [Step 417] a value of each of one or more selected members [configuration parameters (e.g. 320)] of a first node [identified leaf node's parent (e.g. 314) {See Steps 409-413}], said first node being referenced by a value of a first member [particular DN attribute value] of a second node [identified leaf node (e.g. 304)] in response to said first member of said second node having a predetermined type [non-root]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 2, Golla discloses the search method as claimed. See Figures 1-4 and the corresponding portions of Golla's specification for this disclosure. Golla teaches the method of claim 1, as above, "further comprising the step of determining [Step 403] if a second member [another DN attribute value (e.g. 'o=Cisco Systems,

Inc.')] of said second node [identified leaf node (e.g. 304)] matches a value of a second parameter [another parameter of the LDAP request principal]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 3, Golla discloses the search method as claimed. See Figures 1-4 and the corresponding portions of Golla's specification for this disclosure. Golla teaches the method of claim 2, as above, "wherein said step of returning [Step 417] said value of each of one or more members of said first node [See above] is in response to said second member of said second node matching said value of said second parameter [after the leaf node (e.g. 304) is found]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 4, Golla discloses the search method as claimed. See Figures 3-4 and the corresponding portions of Golla's specification for this disclosure. Golla teaches the method of claim 1, as above, "further comprising the step of returning [Step 417] values of a selected set of members [configuration parameters (e.g. 306)] of said second node [identified leaf node (e.g. 304)]" as claimed.

Claim 5 is rejected on the same basis as claim 3, in light of the basis for claim 4 above. Golla teaches the method of claim 4, as above, "further comprising the step of determining if a second member of said second node matches a value of a second parameter [See claim 2], and wherein said step of returning values of said selected set of members of said second node [See claim 4] is in response to said second member of said second node matching said value of said second parameter [See claim 3]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 6, Golla discloses the search method as claimed. See Figures 1-4 and the corresponding portions of Golla's specification for this disclosure. Golla

teaches the method of claim 1, as above, "further comprising the step of, if said first parameter has said first predetermined value [See claim 1], returning [Step 417] a value of each of one or more selected members [configuration parameters (e.g. 326)] of a third node [parent node of identified leaf node's parent (e.g. 324)], said third node being referenced by a value of a first member [particular DN attribute value] of said first node [identified leaf node's parent (e.g. 314)] in response to said first member of said first node having said predetermined type [non-root]" as claimed.

Claim 7 is rejected on the same basis as claim 2, in light of the basis for claim 6 above. Golla teaches the method of claim 6, as above, "wherein said selected members of said first node [See claim 1] and said selected members of said third node [See claim 6] are selected in response to a value of a second parameter [See claim 2]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 8, Golla discloses the search method as claimed. See Figures 1-4 and the corresponding portions of Golla's specification for this disclosure. Golla teaches the method of claim 1, as above, "wherein said first parameter [See claim 1] comprises a parameter of a set of parameters [principal] in a search request [LDAP request (See step 403)]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 9, Golla discloses the search method as claimed. See Figures 1-4 and the corresponding portions of the specification for this disclosure. Golla teaches the method of claim 8, as above, "wherein said search request comprises a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) search request" as claimed. See column

3, lines 44-53; column 4, lines 35-60; and column 9, lines 36-46 for the details of this disclosure.

Claims 10-18 are rejected on the same basis as claims 1-9 respectively. See the discussions regarding claims 1-9 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claims 19-27 are rejected on the same basis as claims 1-9 respectively. See the discussions regarding claims 1-9 above for the details of this disclosure.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants' arguments regarding the Traversat reference (U.S. 6,366,954) are considered persuasive to the extent that the previously cited portions of Traversat do not explicitly teach or suggest the claimed search method. However, the previously cited portions of Traversat, to which all of applicants' arguments are directed, deal only with the exchanging of data between a Java System Database (JSD) entry and an LDAP directory service. Traversat further teaches a method for searching the JSD, which fully discloses the claimed invention as shown above. Thus, applicants' attention is directed to the newly cited portions of Traversat as discussed in the new grounds of rejection above.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent Nos. 6,434,556 to Levin et al. ; 6,041,053 to Douceur et al. ; and 5,737,732 to Gibson et al. are each considered particularly pertinent to applicants' claimed invention of claims 1, 10 and 19.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goddard whose telephone number is 703-305-7821. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

bdg



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